NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 7, 2005, <u>ULYSSES WILLIAMS</u>, a/k/a "J.R.," age 44, and <u>ANTONIO D. WATSON</u>, age 23, both of Carbondale, were sentenced in United States District Court in Benton. WILLIAMS and WATSON had previously pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute more than 5 grams of crack cocaine. WILLIAMS was sentenced to 235 months' imprisonment, 5 years' supervised release, and was fined \$975. WATSON was sentenced to 168 months' imprisonment, 5 years' supervised release, and was fined \$600.

The violations took place between July 2003, and April 24, 2004, in Jackson, Randolph and Perry Counties. Co-defendants JAMONTE L. ALLISON and DEMETRIUS D. JOHNSON, a/k/a "Mete," have pled guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Co-defendants DETRIC D. ROSEMAN and BRANDON McDADE have pled not guilty and are awaiting trial. ROSEMAN AND McDADE are presumed innocent until they are proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Information for the indictment was obtained through the cooperative effort of the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Murphysboro Police Department. The Perry County Sheriff's Department and Pinckneyville Police Department also participated in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.